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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.
The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are thankful, O God, for our traditions, those guidelines of life that help direct our way and remind us of the paths of those who have gone before. We are grateful for the rich history of our Nation and the ideals of our Founders. We pray, gracious God, that we are worthy of the responsibilities we have in our day and faithful to our traditions that justice will flow down as waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The gentlewoman from New Jersey [Mrs. ROUKEMA] will lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. ROUKEMA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. There will be fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

DEMOCRATS NOT COMMITTED TO SAVING MEDICARE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, it occurs to me that liberal Democrats work feverishly at nothing. At times they seem all bent out of shape and exercised beyond belief. It is truly a spectacle to behold. They cry and whine, and whine and cry, but they have proposed not one, not even one, idea to preserve Medicare or Medicaid.

To illustrate my point, this weekend, liberal Democrats will start a series of mock hearings on Medicare. Or should I say fake hearings—as opposed to the dozens of real hearings Congress has held since the release of the Medicare trustees report last April.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that Democrats would hold fake hearings because that really gets to the heart of their commitment level to saving and strengthening Medicare.

They would rather pose and posture at a fake hearing than come up with real solutions in the real Congress.

WHY ARE REPUBLICANS AFRAID TO DEBATE THEIR MEDICARE PLAN?

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, why are the Republicans so afraid to debate their plan on Medicare?

So far this year, we have had 28 days of Whitewater hearings. We have had 2 weeks of hearings on Waco and Ruby Ridge.

Yet, when it comes to deciding the future of a program that affects every single American family, they could only find time for 1 day of hearings.

But I suppose if I had a plan that doubled premiums to \$100, took away the choice of doctors, and cut benefits just to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy, I would keep it hidden, too.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better. They deserve at least 4 weeks of debate on Medicare.

The Republicans are trying to steamroll their Medicare plan through this House. I think the American people have a right to ask: what are the Republicans trying to hide?

MEDISCARE

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, here we are two speeches into the day, and we are already hearing the Democrat Mediscare standard, boiler plate speech. We do not necessarily expect to have their help. It would be nice. Some of the Democrats are in the debate, and it is very good.

Let us just move away from the partisanship, move to an outside party. What does the Washington Post say? The Republican Party is anathema to the Washington Post. It would be the equivalent of a Georgia graduate saying something complimentary about Georgia Tech. So what does the Washington Post say about the Republican plan? Here is an editorial page, September 15; it talks about how great the plan is. I can get anybody who wants a copy of that. How do they describe Democrat Mediscare? Crummy stuff, demagoguery, big time scare tactics, expostulation, some kind of fancy Washington word, irresponsible.

What do they call the Republican plan? Remember, this comes from the Washington Post: Congressional Republicans have confounded the skeptics; it is incredible; it is gutsy; it addresses a genuine problem that only is going to get worse.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is coming from the Washington Post. Maybe the Democrats will get with the program. Who knows. VerDate 20-SEP-95 07:02 Sep 21, 1995 Jkt 099061

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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